

## ABSTRACT

This patent describes an economical and environment-friendly process for the synthesis of anionic clays with carbonate and/or hydroxide anions as the charge-balancing interlayer species. It involves reacting a slurry comprising an aluminium source and a magnesium source, the aluminium source comprising two types of aluminium-containing compounds, preferably aluminium trihydrate and/or thermally treated calcined aluminium trihydrate. There is no necessity to wash or filter the product. It can be spray dried directly to form microspheres or can be extruded to form shaped bodies. The product can be combined with other ingredients in the manufacture of catalysts, absorbents, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, detergents, and other commodity products.

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